

already done, and will give the reader a capital idea of the position of the workers in the Mycenaean field ; it will also enable him to take an intelligent interest in the labours of future workers and to appreciate the developments of a most fascinating line of research.

#### THE SOUTH EASTERN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE AT WYE.

THE new block of buildings just completed at the South Eastern Agricultural College at Wye, Kent, is to be opened by the Right Hon. R. W. Hanbury, president of the Board of Agriculture, as we go to press this week. As the College has been constituted a school of the University of London in Agriculture, it may be of interest to give a short account of this institution—one of the most advanced examples of the development of agri-

rangle, with lecture rooms, &c., on the ground floor and students' living rooms on the first floor ; the chemical laboratories occupy a further wing. There are two lecture rooms, one a theatre with raised seats accommodating 150 people ; the drawing office provides working space for twenty-four students in such subjects as surveying, building construction and farm engineering. On the biological side there is a laboratory with working space for thirty students, furnished with Swift's histological microscopes ; two smaller laboratories for the professors of botany and economic entomology, and a museum, of which the chief features at present are a collection illustrating the insect pests attacking fruit and hops, specimens illustrating the forestry course, pathological specimens in connection with farm animals, typical cereals, soils, &c.

The chemical laboratories consist of a general students'

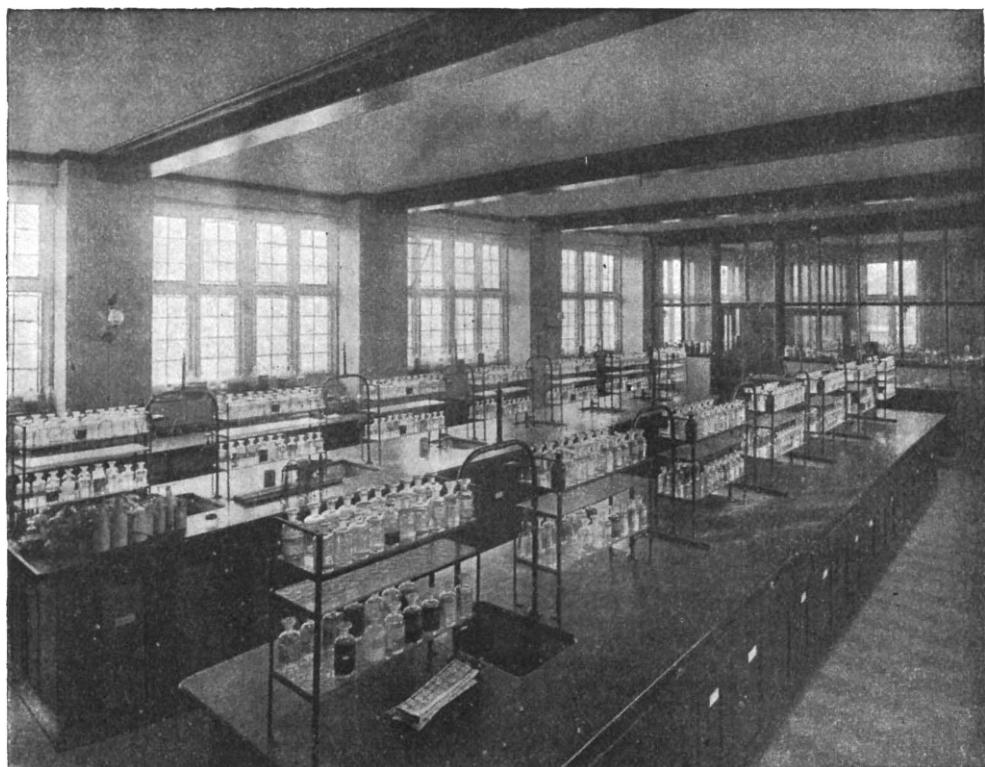


FIG. 1.—Chemical Laboratory of the South Eastern Agricultural College.

cultural education under the administration of "the whisky money" by county councils.

The College began work in 1895, and is managed under a scheme of the Charity Commissioners by a governing body appointed by the county councils of Kent and Surrey, together with representatives of the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge and London, the Royal and the Bath and West Agricultural Societies. The buildings, which are situated at Wye, a little village on the South-Eastern line between Ashford and Canterbury, consist of a nucleus built about 1470, an ancient collegiate foundation due to the Cardinal Archbishop Kempe, with successive additions made in 1894 and the current year.

The old buildings form a small quadrangle with brick cloisters and include a fine and lofty hall, the refectory of the original College now restored to its original purpose, and a beautiful oak panelled room, which is used as the library. The later additions form a second quad-

laboratory, measuring about 45 by 30 feet, lighted on both of the longer sides of the room ; it is fitted with two double benches running longitudinally, reagent bottles being carried on glass shelves down the middle of the tables. The two benches give working room for thirty students, and other benches in the window recesses are provided for special work ; water and gas are laid on to all the tables, and there are two fume chambers within and one outside the laboratory. Separated from the main laboratory by a glazed partition is the balance room and the larger of the analytical laboratories ; adjoining this comes a smaller room reserved for gas analysis, titrations, &c., that require an acid or ammonia free atmosphere, and next to this comes a room for the furnaces and for ether extractions and other operations involving the use of inflammable liquids ; in one corner of this room a drying chamber has been built.

The College farms about 250 acres of land adjoining

it is preeminently a sheep farm, the soil being a light loam resting on chalk ; the main features of the farming consist of a breeding flock of the Romney Marsh breed, a small dairy herd of shorthorns and a large stock of poultry. There is a small hop garden, planted in 1895, to test the various systems in vogue of training hops and for other experimental work. The two fruit plantations are both young ; one is used for teaching purposes, the other is mainly laid out for experiments. On the farm are situated the dairy, forge, carpenter's shop, apiary, &c.

The staff of the College consists of seven resident professors and lecturers, together with instructors in practical subjects, demonstrators, &c., the necessity for this extensive staff being that the College is also a centre for much

practical experience with the children of the Wye Elementary School.

At present there are some fifty to sixty students in residence, mostly taking the ordinary course, but a few are doing special work in the laboratories ; it is hoped that such students will increase with the facilities the institution now affords for research which requires work both in the field and the laboratory. Both at home and in our Colonies and dependencies agriculture wants trained investigators and teachers if we are to keep our place, and the South Eastern Agricultural College is making a serious attempt to supply within the London University the kind of institution that has done such good service for American and German farming.



FIG. 2.—Biological Laboratory of the South Eastern Agricultural College.

extra-mural work in the counties of Kent and Surrey, such as courses of lectures, analyses of soils and manures, reports on crop diseases, field experiments and similar investigations. As regards the latter, experiments on the manuring and cultivation of hops have been carried on consecutively for six years, and results of considerable practical importance are beginning to emerge. Other work extending over several years has been done on the quality of barley as affected by manuring, the cost of growing sugar beet and its food value, and a systematic examination of the soils of Kent and Surrey has also been in progress for some time.

The normal course of instruction extends over two or three years ; the College grants a diploma of its own, and with the constitution of a board of agricultural studies in the University of London it is expected that regulations for the degree course will soon be forthcoming.

Short sessions for special purposes are held from time to time ; in August, for example, there will be a normal course of instruction in "nature knowledge" for elementary school masters, the outcome of two years'

#### THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

GLASGOW MEETING, SEPTEMBER 11-18, 1901.

**I**N the first article which appeared in NATURE on May 23, particulars were given regarding the local arrangements as to reception room, rooms for sectional meetings, and the halls in which the presidential and other evening scientific lectures were to be delivered. The Friday evening lecture is to be given by Prof. W. Ramsay, on inert constituents of the atmosphere, and the Monday evening lecture is to be given by Mr. Francis Darwin, on the movements of plants.

Two important fixtures by the Excursions' and Entertainments' Committee have been made since the last notice, namely, the chartering of one of the Clyde steamers for a whole day's sail on Saturday, September 14, and the acceptance of an offer by Lord Blythswood, president of the Philosophical Society of Glasgow, to give a garden party in the Botanical Gardens on the afternoon of Monday, September 16.

Promises of numerous papers by eminent authors are